



General Assembly

January Session, 2013

Amendment

LCO No. 5971

HB0646505971HD0

Offered by:

REP. URBAN, 43rd Dist.

SEN. BARTOLOMEO, 13th Dist.

REP. FAWCETT, 133rd Dist.

To: House Bill No. 6465

File No. 43

Cal. No. 71

"AN ACT CONCERNING ANIMAL THERAPY."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2013*) (a) For purposes of this
4 section, "animal assisted therapy" means goal-directed intervention in
5 which animals are used as an integral part of the crisis response
6 process to aid individuals who have experienced mental, physical or
7 emotional trauma; "animal assisted therapy community" means the
8 local or regional entities capable of providing animal assisted therapy
9 to individuals within the state; and "animal assisted activity
10 organization" means any entity involved in training, evaluating and
11 registering members of the animal assisted therapy community.

12 (b) Not later than January 1, 2014, the Commissioner of Children
13 and Families shall, within available appropriations, develop and
14 implement training for certain employees of the Department of

15 Children and Families and mental health care providers, on (1) the
16 healing value of the human-animal bond for children, (2) the value of
17 therapy animals in dealing with traumatic situations, and (3) the
18 benefit of an animal assisted therapy program.

19 (c) Not later than January 1, 2014, the Commissioner of Children
20 and Families, in consultation with the Commissioner of Agriculture
21 and within available appropriations, shall identify a coordinated
22 volunteer canine crisis response team. Such team shall consist of
23 various handlers and canines that have been trained, evaluated and
24 registered by an animal assisted activity organization to provide aid to
25 individuals during and after traumatic events. Such team shall operate
26 on a volunteer basis and shall be available to provide animal assisted
27 therapy within twenty-four hours of receiving notice to do so.

28 (d) Not later than July 1, 2014, the Commissioner of Children and
29 Families, in consultation with the Governor's Prevention Partnership
30 and the animal assisted therapy community shall, within available
31 appropriations, develop a crisis response program utilizing the
32 services of the coordinated volunteer canine crisis response team
33 identified pursuant to subsection (c) of this section to provide animal
34 assisted therapy to children and youths living with trauma and loss."

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| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
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| Section 1 | October 1, 2013 | New section |
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